

Participation of Homemakers in Meetings

Reserve

38% of the 624 homemakers interviewed or 240 homemakers attended meetings.

Only 11% of these attended during the past year. The women attending meetings included women of all age groups; 18% were young women under 35 years of age, - 48% were middle aged women 35 to 55 years of age, and 35% were older women 55 years of age and over.

The homemakers who attended meetings had a high degree of formal schooling, 19% of them had some college work or work beyond college, only 22% had 8th grade or less.

A large percentage of the homemakers who attended meetings had running water and electricity in the homes, 81% had telephones in the home, - 64% were rated as having average incomes - 23% high and 13% low.

Homemakers who had never attended extension meetings

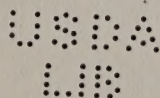
62% of the homemakers had never attended an extension meeting.

14% of these homemakers did not attend meetings but made an effort to get information such as: (a) asked the agent to call at their homes, (b) asked the State College, the agent or leader for a bulletin, (c) asked to be put on the Extension mailing list, (d) telephoned the extension office for information, (e) called at the extension office, (f) planned time so she could listen to radio programs, (g) asked a community or town committee member about home demonstration work.

This leaves 48% who made no effort to get information.

Among this group were women who knew of the Extension Service and of the home demonstration organization. Some had very confused ideas as regards

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the organization and its relation to the Service as a whole or to other groups, such as 4-H Clubs.

Of those homemakers who made no effort to get information 40% of them were in the older age group (above 54).

The homemakers who made no effort to get information had less formal schooling than those who attended meetings or who made other effort to get information.

Of the women who had only an eighth grade education or less 65% made no effort to get extension information. Of the homemakers who had a college degree 31% made no effort to get information.

Slightly fewer of those who made no effort to get Extension information had running water and electricity in the home, - 62% of them had telephones in the home as contrasted to 81% of the homemakers who attended meetings, 28% of them were rated in the low income level.

In the face of these level of living differences, it is a question as to how well the present leadership can motivate homemakers from the less privileged group to join them in existing groups. It would seem advisable to develop further the trend toward smaller community groups within the town areas.